

1 CLAIM LISTING

2  
3 Claims 1 - 16 (Canceled)

4  
5 17. (Previously Presented) A method including:

- 6 (a) placing an initial comminuted meat product in contact with ammonia to produce  
7 an intermediate meat product; and  
8 (b) applying mechanical action to the intermediate meat product.  
9

10 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of applying mechanical  
11 action to the intermediate meat product includes forcing the intermediate meat product  
12 through a conduit.  
13

14 19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of applying mechanical  
15 action to the intermediate meat product includes applying a primary mechanical action by  
16 agitating the intermediate meat product in a vessel.  
17

18 20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 further including the step of applying a  
19 vacuum to the intermediate meat product in the vessel as the primary mechanical action is  
20 applied.  
21

1 21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of applying mechanical  
2 action to the intermediate meat product includes applying a secondary mechanical action  
3 to the intermediate meat product by forcing the intermediate meat product through a  
4 conduit ~~before or after applying the primary mechanical action.~~

5  
6 22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of placing the initial  
7 comminuted meat product in contact with ammonia comprises applying ammonia gas or  
8 ~~aqueous ammonia~~ to the initial comminuted meat product.

9  
10 23. (Previously Presented) A method including:

- 11 (a) placing a comminuted meat product in contact with ammonia; and  
12 (b) forcing the comminuted meat product through a conduit after placing the  
13 comminuted meat product in contact with ammonia.

14  
15 24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 further including applying a primary  
16 mechanical action to the comminuted meat product after placing the comminuted meat  
17 product in contact with ammonia, the primary mechanical action being applied by  
18 agitating the comminuted meat product in a vessel.

1 25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 further including the step of applying a  
2 vacuum to the comminuted meat product in the vessel as the primary mechanical action is  
3 applied.

4  
5 26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further including applying a secondary  
6 mechanical action to the comminuted meat product by forcing the comminuted meat  
7 product through an additional conduit after applying the primary mechanical action.

8  
9 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the step of placing the  
10 comminuted meat product in contact with ammonia comprises applying ammonia gas or  
11 aqueous ammonia to the comminuted meat product.

12  
13 28. (Previously Presented) A method including:  
14 (a) placing ground meat in contact with ammonia; and  
15 (b) applying mechanical action to the ground meat after placing the ground meat in  
16 contact with ammonia.

17  
18 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of applying mechanical  
19 action to the ground meat includes forcing the ground meat through a conduit.

20  
21 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of applying mechanical  
22 action to the ground meat includes applying a primary mechanical action by agitating the  
23 ground meat in a vessel.

1 31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 further including the step of applying a  
2 vacuum to the ground meat in the vessel as the primary mechanical action is applied.  
3

4 32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of applying mechanical  
5 action to the ground meat includes applying a secondary mechanical action to the ground  
6 meat by forcing the ground meat through a conduit after placing the ground meat in  
7 contact with ammonia and before or after applying the primary mechanical action.  
8

9 33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of placing the ground  
10 meat in contact with ammonia comprises applying ammonia gas or aqueous ammonia to  
11 the ground meat.  
12

13 34. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of placing the initial comminuted meat  
14 product in contact with ammonia comprises applying aqueous ammonia to the meat  
15 product.  
16

17 35. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the step of placing the comminuted meat product  
18 in contact with ammonia comprises applying aqueous ammonia to the meat product.  
19

20 36. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of placing the ground meat in contact  
21 with ammonia comprises applying aqueous ammonia to the meat product.  
22  
23

- 1 37. (New) A method including:
- 2 (a) producing an ammonium hydroxide solution in a comminuted meat product; and
- 3 (b) applying mechanical action to the comminuted meat product after producing the
- 4 ammonium hydroxide solution in the meat product.